Library

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lostwithiel.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1957.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Cottrell, the Borough Surveyor, and to Mr. Watts for their continued help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(sgd.) JAMES TURNER

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	3050
Population (estimated mid-year)	1980
Number of Inhabited Houses	776
Rateable Value	£16293
Product of a Penny Rate	£63

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				Rate per 1,000 Population	
LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	Lostwithiel	England & Wales
Legitimate	10	10	20	10.1	
Illegitimate	0	0			
Rate corrected for age and sex distribution				10.9	16.1
				Rate per 1,000 Births and Still Births	
STILL BIRTHS	0	2	2	91	22.4
				Rate per 1,000 Population	
DEATHS	13	16	29	14.6	
Rate corrected for age and sex distribution				10.4	11.5
				Rate per 1,000 Total Births	
MATERNAL MORTALITY		N I L		Nil	0.47
				Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
INFANT MORTALITY					
Legitimate	0	0	0	0.0	23.0
Illegitimate	0	0			

The following table gives the causes of death in accordance with the International Abbreviated List (1948)

Diseases	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3
18. Coronary disease angina	-	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
20. Other heart disease	4	4
21. Other circulatory disease	-	1
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-
24. Bronchitis	1	-

Diseases	Males	Females
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	1
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
ALL CAUSES	13	16

The following short table gives the numbers of those dying in the age groups indicated.

Age Group		
0-1 year	-	-
1-59 years	1	6
60-69 years	5	5
70-79 years	4	1
80-89 years	1	2
90 and over	2	2

SECTION A

Lostwithiel is a quiet country town set in pleasant surroundings in the valley of the Fowey River. The town has many historic associations and has some very well preserved buildings. The only industry of any consequence is the milk depot.

There is a considerable rise in the population during the summer months caused by the influx of visitors.

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Service

Public Health Office

(1) Medical Officer of Health, J.G.S. Turner, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(2) Sanitary Inspector L.J. Cottrell.

Laboratory Facilities. These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. In addition to the supplies of diphtheria prophylactics previously available, supplies of whooping cough vaccine, both by itself, and coupled with that for diphtheria, are available at the Area Health Office, St.Austel and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners on request. Poliomyelitis vaccine is issued to practitioners whenever available.

Ambulance Facilities. These are provided by the County Council from the main ambulance station at St. Austell. In emergencies, at night, and at weekends, help is given by voluntary staff from St. Austell, St. Blazey or Fowey.

Thanks are due to the Red Cross Society, to St. John's Ambulance Association, to Mrs. Batchelor, the organiser of the Hospital Car Service, and to many ladies and gentlemen who provide transport by request.

The following table gives the work carried out in the whole of Number 4 Area, and on a population basis, Lostwithiel was responsible for about one thirtieth of the work done.

	Patients	Miles
Ambulance St. Austell Area	3189	47654
Utilicons do.	12055	97200
Hospital Car Service	5890	58365
Country Centre Ambulances, Indian Queens, Fowey and St. Blazey	853	31819

NURSING IN THE HOME. There is one District Nurse, Midwife-Health Visitor, who is able to cope with all demands.

HOME HELP. This service has worked well and thanks are due to Mrs. Liddicoat and to Mrs. Clark, who administer the service.

A total of 3 cases were helped

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. There is no clinic but as the nurse visits regularly in the home, the health of the children is well supervised.

HOSPITALS. There are no hospitals in the area and patients are sent to St.Austell, Bodmin, Fowey, Truro and Redruth. Patients with infections diseases are sent to Truro Isolation Hospital when necessary.

SECTION C

Sanitary circumstances of the Borough

Water Supply

The main sources of supply, Church Park Wood Adit, and Collebeacon continue to give an adequate supply. Chlorination of the water at both sources is carried out and provides satisfactory analyses as shown by the samples taken.

Re-roofing of the St. Georges Park reservoir appears to be a task requiring early attention.

Number of samples taken	24
Results satisfactory	24
Unsatisfactory	Nil

Sewerage

Further progress has been made concerning the sewage disposal works for the town. The scheme, while not complete, has been delayed by negotiations with Messrs. D.M.P. Ltd. for the construction of a joint sewage disposal works large enough to deal with the additional trade waste from an enlarged factory. The scheme is now approaching a stage when a submission to the Ministry, preparatory to loan and grant decision.

SECTION D

Housing

103 visits of house inspection were made and 50 informal notices were served and complied with.

No action has been taken with regard to slum clearance as owing to the inadequate sewerage it has not been possible to build new houses.

Housing of old persons

The following figures indicate that Lostwithiel has a higher proportion of old people than the rest of the County.

Number of people over the age of 60 years

Males 214

Females 297 Total 511 or 25.3% of the Borough population.

The comparable figure for the County is 19.2%.

Corresponding percentages for those aged 65 years and over are:-

Lostwithiel 17.6%

County 13.6%

The housing arrangements for those aged 60 years and over are as follows:-

(a) Householders

Married persons (male and female) 276

Some of this group are living in substandard houses which should be dealt with in due course by slum clearance. There is a tendency for older people to retain houses which are too large and which they are no longer able to maintain. An effort should be made to persuade such people to exchange houses with younger people with families who live in over-crowded conditions.

Single, Widowed and Divorced Persons 154

About 90 of the 776 occupied houses in the town are occupied by people living alone and of the 90 at least half are over the age of 60 years and most are women.

(b) Non-householders 81

Some look after their elderly relations willingly but others find it a burden. The old desire to be as independent as conditions allow and generally speaking it is desirable that younger married people should be free to live their lives without the presence of the old.

It is highly desirable that an approach to housing the old should be made and that this should take into account increasing physical disability, limited means, loneliness and the desire to have some of their own possessions.

SECTION E

Meat Inspection

The major part of the meat supply of the town comes from Liskeard.

Meat inspection is carried out at the slaughterhouse which has been reconditioned. The slaughterhouse, a private one, is a private business and only very high quality animals are slaughtered. The meat inspection and control is carried out at regular weekly intervals as and when slaughtering takes place. The following table gives the results of inspection:-

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	64	-	-	40	70
Number inspected	64	-	-	40	70
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil			Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10			2	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	15.6%			5%	4.3%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil			Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6			-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.6%			-	5.7%

Other Foods

Small quantities of tinned goods are inspected upon request from various retailers in the town. As a result small quantities of tinned foods, including tinned meat were condemned, mainly as a result of decomposition and damaged tins.

Milk

Periodic visits are made to the retailers of the town and inspections of their premises and equipment are carried out. These were found to be satisfactory. Two retailers are licensed for the sale of Pasteurised or Sterilised milk.

Cafes, Restaurants and Food Preparing Premises

Periodic visits have been made to food preparing premises, including cafes and restaurants in the town. The standard of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications were received:-

Disease	Number of Cases 1957	Rate per 1,000 Population Lostwithiel 1956	Lostwithiel 1957	England & Wales 1957
Measles	9	47.5	4.5	14.06
Acute Pneumonia	11	1.5	5.5	0.73
Rheumatic Fever	1	0.5	0.5	0.0
Whooping Cough	2	0.0	1.0	1.89
Scarlet Fever	1	0.0	0.5	0.66

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children at 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January 1943)

Age at 31/12/57 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1957	1-4 1956-53	5-9 1952-48	10-14 1947-43	Under 15 years Total
(1) Last complete course of injections (primary or booster)					
(a) 1953-1957	2	92	91	26	211
(b) 1943-1952	-	-	87	165	252

Age at 31/12/57 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1957	1-4 1956-53	5-9 1952-48	10-14 1947-43	Under 15 years Total
(2) Estimated mid-year child population	20	92	329		441
(3) Immunity Index i.e. $100 \frac{(1)(a)}{(2)}$	10.0	100.0	35.5		47.8

During the year the following immunisations were carried out:-

Primary 24

Booster 9

It is advisable to ensure that all children are immunised against whooping cough as soon as possible after birth and that they are given booster doses on entry into school.

Smallpox Vaccination

Fifteen persons received primary vaccination and nine were re-vaccinated.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis

As vaccine was still in very short supply it was not possible to immunise more than a very small proportion of children. The analysis of results of the 1956 vaccinations indicates that considerable protection is given.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	3	3	6
Non-Pulmonary	0	0	0

The mass radiography unit visited Lostwithiel from the 13th to 18th November. A total of 686 people were examined with the following findings:-

A. Pulmonary Tuberculosis

1. Newly discovered requiring treatment 1
   requiring observation 5

2. No action 3

B. Other Conditions

Silicosis	1
Sarcordosis	1
Cancer Lung	1
Heart disease	1

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	20	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	10	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	30	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

There were none.